

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 158

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Austin Peay State University.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor those extraordinary institutions of higher learning that promote education in a manner that has garnered universal acclaim; and

WHEREAS, Austin Peay State University (APSU) is one of the fastest-growing public universities in the State of Tennessee and is celebrating its ninetieth anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, APSU was established by the General Assembly as Austin Peay Normal School on April 26, 1927; located in Clarksville, the school was primarily a training college for teachers and today, remains a leader in teacher education for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Austin Peay began offering a Bachelor of Science degree in 1939 and subsequently became Austin Peay State College in 1943; the institution established a graduate school in 1952 and became Austin Peay State University in 1967; and

WHEREAS, for five consecutive years, APSU has been the only four-year university in the State of Tennessee to make the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* list of "Great Colleges to Work For"; and

WHEREAS, APSU serves more than 2,600 military-related students, making it the State's largest provider of higher education to active-duty service members, veterans, and their families and the only institution with a stand-alone education facility on the Fort Campbell Army Post; and

WHEREAS, the University has grown from a campus of twenty-four acres with 158 students into an academic community of more than 180 acres on its main campus in Clarksville, serving more than 10,000 students; and

WHEREAS, on a per capita basis, every 100 new APSU students creates an additional \$2.18 million in local business revenue, thirty new local jobs, and \$127,000 in state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, APSU-related activities account for nearly \$234 million in business revenue and \$13.63 million in state and local taxes for the Clarksville area and \$201.2 million in business revenue and \$11.24 million in state and local taxes for the Montgomery County area; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), APSU competes at the highest level in sixteen intercollegiate sports, having recently won the 2016 OVC Basketball Tournament Championship; many Governors have gone on to compete successfully in the professional ranks and the Olympics; and

WHEREAS, over the course of ninety years, APSU has provided numerous educational opportunities to many first-generation and nontraditional college students and has worked to make sure all students succeed by developing nationally recognized student success initiatives and programs; and

WHEREAS, the education of every Tennessean is of paramount importance, and the people of this State are fortunate indeed to be served by the dedicated faculty, staff, and students of Austin Peay State University; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Austin Peay State University on ninety years of excellence in higher education and join with its administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumni as they celebrate the institution's ninetieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.